



News Release

STATE OF MARYLAND

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

Martin O'Malley
Governor

Anthony G. Brown
Lt. Governor

Gary D. Maynard
Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Division of Correction K9 Unit Officers
Assist Annapolis Police in Drug Seizure
And Warrant –Serving Operation**

TOWSON, MD (March 28, 2008)---The Maryland Division of Correction's respected K-9 Unit helped Annapolis Police locate marijuana and cocaine during a special operation this week as part of the Capital City Safe Streets Initiative. The cooperative effort, supported by Governor O'Malley and the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention, included the Anne Arundel County Sheriff's Office and the Maryland Division of Correction, and was supervised by the Annapolis Police Department.

Division of Correction (DOC) K-9 Operations Supervisor Lt. Mark Flynn and his dog Briar; Sgt. Brian Itnyre and his dog Shadow from DOC's Jessup region; and Sgt. Dennis Dieterle and his K-9 Shelton from the Hagerstown region recovered numerous stashes of drugs in the Woodside, Clay Street, and Bentz Street apartment complexes. Annapolis Police successfully served multiple warrants during the March 26 operation in suspected open-air drug markets.

Recovered by DOC K-9 teams were: approximately 39 grams of marijuana; approximately seven grams of crack cocaine; 60 "rocks"--- approximately 9 grams--- of suspected crack; and a cell phone dropped by a fleeing suspect. The drugs were turned over to the Annapolis Police Department.

Maryland's DOC K-9 Unit, headquartered on Roxbury Road at the state prison complex just south of Hagerstown, is one of the most respected units in the nation, annually training dozens of K-9 officers and dogs for police and correctional agencies from all over the region. Most recently, the unit has won acclaim for breeding and raising its own drug-sniffing dogs rather than purchasing them. This has allowed the unit to train its own dogs from puppy stage, yielding a better-trained dog with a longer "career," while also saving Maryland taxpayers thousands of dollars per dog.

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“DOC stands ready to assist law enforcement at any time,” says Commissioner of Correction J. Michael Stouffer. “DPSCS Secretary Gary Maynard has made it clear that this department is going to do all it can to form partnerships and work cooperatively with law enforcement, community leaders, and citizens to make Maryland safer.”

Added K-9 Commander Major Peter Anderson: “I am very proud of the officers in this extremely important agency. Our common goal is to make communities safer, and reduce the number of victims, both inside the prisons and in all Maryland communities.”